

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 10 (cancelled)

- 10            11. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat to be laid under a drip-oozing food comprising:  
                an absorption sheet configured to absorb drips; and  
                a porous surface sheet adjoining the absorption sheet, and having a first side facing the absorption sheet and a second side configured to adjoin the food;  
15            wherein said porous surface sheet comprises a film having a plurality of protrusions, each protrusion having a convex side and a concave side;  
                wherein a hollow cavity is formed adjacent the protrusions on the convex side; and  
                wherein a pore is provided at the bottom of said concave side of each protrusion such that the protrusion forms a minute aperture;  
20            wherein a terminal portion of said porous surface sheet is adjacent the minute aperture and in contact with the absorption sheet; and  
                wherein the terminal portion forms a notched edge so as to facilitate air flow between the hollow cavity and the apertures.  
25            12. (canceled)  
  
                13. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
                wherein said minute aperture is tapered with an opening of larger diameter on a side configured to adjoin the food.  
30            14. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11;  
                wherein said absorption sheet and said porous surface sheet are adhered to each other in a manner that does not clog said minute aperture.

15. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 14; wherein the absorption and porous surface sheets are glued either at dots or in a line.
- 5        16. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 15; wherein said drip absorption mat is sized to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.
- 10      17. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11; wherein said surface sheet defines a space occupied as a whole, said film occupying not more than 30% of the space occupied as a whole.
- 15      18. (original) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11; wherein the number of said apertures is not below 20 per 1 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 20      19. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat according to Claim 11; wherein said drip absorption mat is characterized by a ventilation resistance value in a horizontal direction that does not exceed 0.20 Kpa·s/m when measured by a test methodology, comprising:
  - laying a plurality of drip absorption mats one on top of another to build a drip absorption mat stack;
  - excising a cylinder of 28 mm in diameter and 5.0 mm thick in the direction of layering; and
  - aerating said cylindrically excised drip absorption mat stack in the horizontal direction.
- 25      20. (previously presented) A drip absorption mat, for use with a tray configured with a mounting surface on which the food is to be placed, according to Claim 11; wherein said drip absorption mat is sized to be laid on the mounting surface of the tray between the tray and the food.
- 30      21. (cancelled)